

AUG 17 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97205

2501

I have many concerns with the EPA's plan to clean up the Willamette River in downtown Portland. The plan, several years in the making, would dredge up the contaminants at the bottom of the river, making downtown Portland a massive construction zone. Dredging could just redistribute the contaminants in the process of this "restoration," and it could also expose people, animals and bystanders to these harmful contaminants that, at the moment, are effectively sequestered at the bottom of the riverbed. The EPA should instead pursue cleanup methods that seal the contaminants at the bottom of the river and protect people and animals from exposure.

The EPA's plan runs counter to methods used by experts like the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps starts with the least aggressive and invasive methods that they can -- they only get more aggressive if they have to. The EPA is starting with the most aggressive method they can. Worse, they're doing it based on outdated data from 2004, ignoring more recent data. That really bothers me. I'm skeptical of any EPA plan, especially plans based on decade-old data. The EPA should use the most current methods and data they possibly can.

Local Portland residents need input into this process, since they'll be most affected by whatever happens with the river. Turning the river into a massive construction zone will have a huge impact on the residents who use the river frequently, not to mention downtown Portland's large tourist industry. This plan would reduce industrial and business use of the river, which would reduce the economic activity that we depend on for jobs. Those jobs generate the taxes that support state government.

The EPA plan's economic impact would hurt individuals as well, by raising taxes. Those increases would join the never-ending stream of taxes and fees that affect the economic viability of all Oregonians -- businesses and residents. The economic burden of these government regulations has to be brought under control, and that includes the Willamette River cleanup. We need to draft a new plan. The current plan will not work.

Sincerely,  
(b) (6)



(b) (6)



Portland, OR, 97221